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table

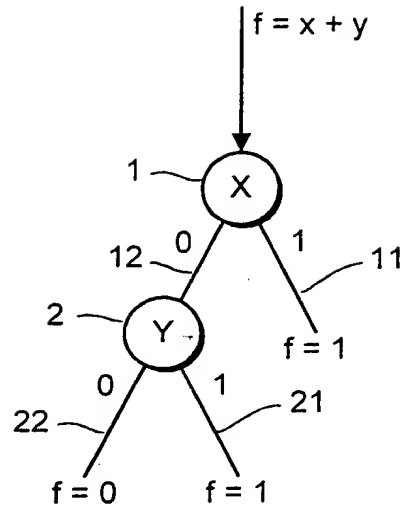


FIG. 1

-- PRIOR ART --

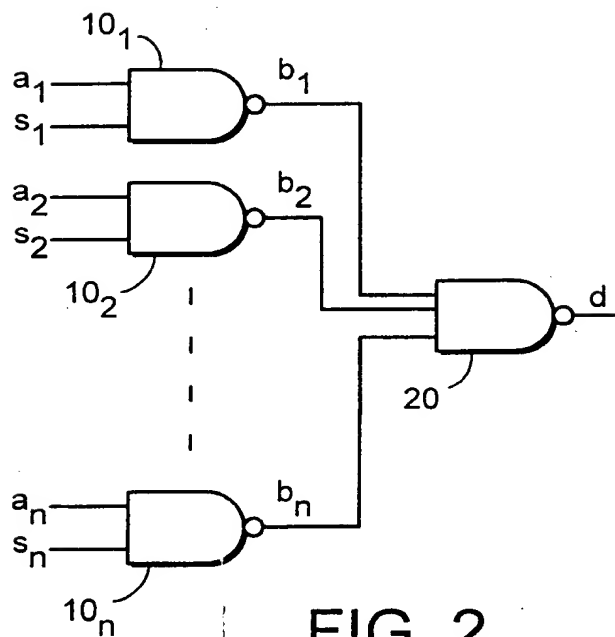


FIG. 2

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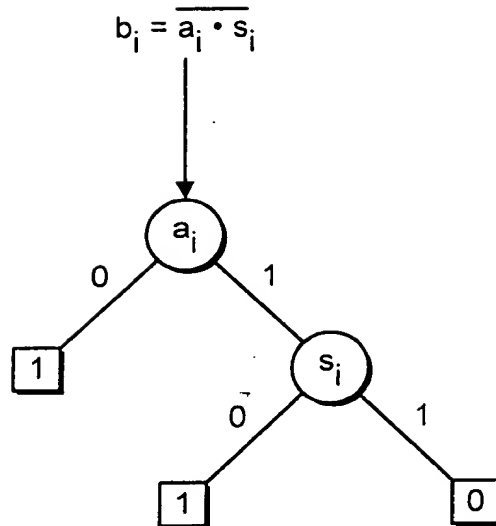


FIG. 3

-- PRIOR ART --

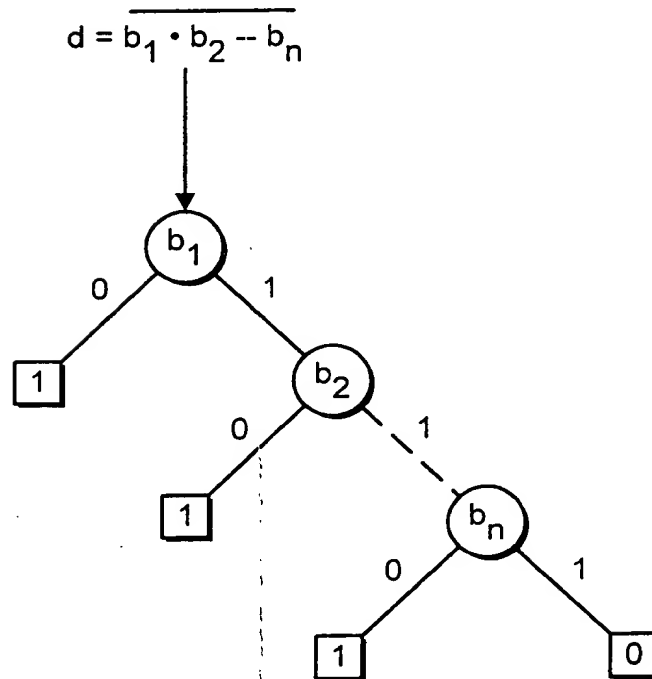
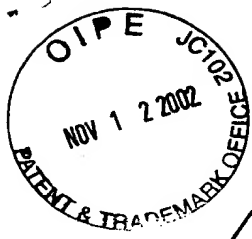


FIG. 4

-- PRIOR ART --



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1000

Represent hardware system as a set of functions that determine values of system variables (input signals, internal signals, output signals)



1002

Represent the set of functions as binary decision diagrams having a plurality of nodes labelled by the variables of the system



1004

Substitute functions that determine the value of internal signals in the system into the set of functions representing the system



1006

Detect an increase in a number of nodes in the binary decision diagrams wherein the number is a threshold derived from an original number of nodes



1008

In response to the detection, arrange the variables of the binary decision diagram on the nodes of a graph whereby the nodes are labelled by the variables



1010

Traverse the graph from the top down to produce a list of the labels in a selected order



1012

Sift the variables in the selected order to reduce the size of the binary decision diagram

Fig. 8